ESSAY ASSIGNMENT #1
US HISTORY 1877-Present (HST 2202)
Fall 2022

THIS PAPER IS DUE MONDAY, OCTOBER 10 at 11:59PM. You are responsible for reading this entire prompt. No late papers will be accepted, no exceptions, no excuses.

THE ASSIGNMENT:

Write an essay of 550-650 words that explains the concept of race.

What purpose has the concept of race served during the history of the United States? The obvious answers are to dominate or elevate (if you qualify as white) or to subordinate or oppress (if you do not qualify as white). But the question is, "Why? What has motivated the use of race as a category in US history? What purpose does (has) deploying the concept of race serve(d) beyond dominance and subordination? Exactly what benefit was gained by being on top?" That's what you need to think about. Answer these questions using at least three specific examples from the history we have studied for this unit on race.

You must offer at least one example from the mid-19th Century, at least one example from the late 19th Century or the early 20th Century, and at least one example from the mid-20th Century. It will be best if you don't confine your analysis to the experiences of only one race or ethnic group.

Recall that we have reviewed two of the foundational documents that established the United States as a nation: The Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. Reading these two documents one can identify, derive, or synthesize basic ideals that the founders believed should guide the life of the nation (for a list of these, consult the class announcements that contained these values; there is also a list in the Essay #1 module).

In your concluding paragraph compare how the examples you have examined align or don't align with the and ideals put forth in the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution.

PLEASE NOTE: Your essay will be evaluated as unsatisfactory if it does not respond to every element of this prompt.

APPROACHING, WRITING, AND SUBMITTING THE ASSIGNMENT.

1. Review the materials we have covered since the beginning of the term.
2. Define the concept of race.
3. Select at least 3 examples that illustrate the concept of race.
4. Write an introductory paragraph that explains the concept of race and contains a thesis statement in which you claim how the examples you have chosen illustrate the concept of race, to what purpose race is deployed in those examples, and how these examples align (or don't align) with the values set out in the Declaration of Independence and/or the US Constitution. Remember, a thesis is a statement of your opinion or point of view or a claim that ALSO suggests how you would support your opinion, point of view, or claim. Your thesis may be longer than one sentence.

5. Write the body paragraphs showing how your examples support your thesis. A good strategy might be dedicating one paragraph to each of your examples. It is best to lay out your evidence in chronological order, earliest instance to latest.
6. Write a concluding paragraph that restates how you have proven your thesis and how your examples align (or don't align) with the values set out in the Declaration of Independence and/or the US Constitution.
7. STEP AWAY! Put your paper aside for a while. Take a shower. Walk the dog. Go work out. Do your math homework. Do something to take your mind away from the paper for a while.
8. Review your paper to assure that what you argue throughout your paper lines up with your thesis; if something doesn't, you may have to adjust your thesis and/or how you deploy your evidence.
9. Compare your paper to the Rubric for Writing Essays available under the "Resources and Support" tab on the Canvas "Modules" web page.
10. Proofread your paper to eliminate errors of spelling, grammar, and style. If you are not a native speaker of English, it would be useful to have a native speaker proofread your paper.
11. Submit your final paper to the Turnitin link ESSAY #1 module on the Canvas website no later than 11:59PM on October 10. No late work will be accepted.

VERY, VERY IMPORTANT*:* I expect you all to write at a college level. This means that you have the skill to write an introductory paragraph that leads to a well-developed and clear thesis. (Remember: A thesis is a statement of your opinion, point of view, or claim that suggests the evidence you would use to support that opinion, point of view, or claim). It means that each of your body paragraphs will relate to that thesis. Paragraphs should include topic sentences, a logical progression of sentences to support that topic sentence, and a transitional sentence or phrase that knits your prose into your next paragraph. The paper should end with a conclusion that reiterates your thesis and makes a final comment. You have all certainly had instruction and practice in these basic writing skills in high school.

I will not waste time reading poorly written papers (exception: you are an international student). If your paper does not feature a well-written introductory paragraph, I will skim the rest of your paper looking for topic sentences. If there are none or few or they are weak, I will give your paper a 65 (D) and move on.

If you suspect your writing skills are not the best, you can avoid the D and get EXTRA CREDIT at the same time. Here's how:

1. Begin your paper a few days before the due date. The Writing Center continues to offer tutoring services which you can learn more about and access via https://www.cpp.edu/lrc/our-services/tutoring.shtml. You can contact them to discuss your approach to your paper via Zoom or in person.
2. Write a COMPLETE draft of your paper following the instructions above.
3. Contact the Writing Center and get a tutor to look it over. Be sure to get your rough draft time-stamped and signed or in some other way authenticated by your tutor. The draft MUST be a complete draft, even if it is rough. Incomplete drafts will get partial or no extra credit.
4. Revise your paper according to the outcome of your meeting with the Writing Center tutor.
5. Turn in your final draft on Turnitin by 11:59PM October 10. No late papers will be accepted, no exceptions, no excuses.

6. At the same time, turn in your time-stamped and signed rough draft by sending me a scanned or photographed copy of the entire paper or a screen shot of your Zoom conference with your tutor (include your tutor's name in the supporting email). A Writing-Center-reviewed draft will get you 5 points added onto your final paper score. Only one such award will be made for this assignment.

FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS

The following instructions may be viewed as a rubric. See also the essay-writing rubric on Canvas. Papers that meet all these requirements will be judged of highest quality, and those that fail to do so will be judged of lower quality.

- Your paper should begin with an introductory paragraph that states the thesis of your paper. A thesis is a statement of the opinion, point of view, or claim that you will develop and support in your paper. It should be specific, and it should suggest how you will support your opinion.

- It might be possible to write this paper WITHOUT drawing on the readings, discussions, and lectures for this class, but papers that don't draw on class materials to support their thesis will be deemed unsatisfactory (D) work.

- Best responses will address all the issues raised in the prompt.

- Your rendering of the evidence from sources must be accurate.

- Every aspect of your paper should engage with supporting your thesis.

- The ideas you express should follow a logical sequence that builds to the complete proof of your thesis.

- The language you use should be clear and free of grammatical or spelling errors.

- The paper should have your name and class time on each page. Please do not include a title page.

- The paper should be double-spaced with the first line of each paragraph indented a half inch. ***See the example below.*** Ten (10) points will be deducted from the scores of all papers that do not conform to this requirement; meaning, your paper will be evaluated, a score will be assigned to it, and then 10 points will be deducted from that score. THE INSTRUCTOR WILL BE VERY ***STRICT*** ABOUT THIS REQUIREMENT.

- Your paper should be no less than 550 words or more that 650 words. These word count parameters refer to the actual text of the essay from start to finish and do not include headers or titles, etc. Word count will be determined by the instructor either using the word count function in Word or, in the case of papers not submitted in Word, by saving those papers as a Word document, then by using Word's word count function. Papers that do not conform to these word count parameters as determined in this manner will have 10 points deducted from their scores; meaning, your paper will be evaluated, a score will be assigned to it and then 10 points will be

deducted from that score. THE INSTRUCTOR WILL BE VERY ***STRICT*** ABOUT THIS REQUIREMENT.

- Tips on creating a thesis may be found on the course Canvas website under the Resources & Support tab.

TURNING IN YOUR PAPER

All papers are to be turned in via the Turnitin link posted on Canvas under the Essay #1 module.

The drop-dead due date is October 10 at 11:59PM. No late papers will be accepted. No exceptions. No excuses.

PLEASE NOTE: If for some reason you have trouble with the Turnitin link or accessing Canvas or any other problems concerning internet connectivity or digital doo doo, you must email me a copy of your paper in Microsoft WORD as an attachment. This email must land in my Inbox by the drop dead due date. No late papers will be accepted. No excuses. No exceptions.

PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR PAPER IN PAGES: Save your Pages document as a Word file or .pdf and upload that. Essays submitted in the Pages format will be docked points.

Turnitin also has issues uploading through the Safari browser. You can go to this link to learn how to deal with these issues: https://help.turnitin.com/known-issues-integrations.htm. Or, you can make it easy on yourself by just uploading using a different browser. Best also to avoid any exotic document formats. Your best bet will be to use something like .doc or .pdf and then upload that to Turnitin using Chrome as a browser. Make sure your formatting remains correct. And be sure you complete the process of uploading your paper to Turnitin. If that process does not bring you to a page that confirms you have turned your paper in successfully, you have not, and you should try again (and again, if need be) until you do.

If you want to be 100% certain you will be able prove a valid effort to submit your paper, make a screenshot of your confirmation page that also contains some clear rendering of the date and time of your submission.

Once again, it is up to you to overcome any computer, Canvas, Turnitin, or internet related problems in submitting your paper. No late papers will be accepted. No excuses. No exceptions.

FINALLY: YOUR WORK MUST BE ORIGINAL. DO NOT APPROACH THIS ASSIGNMENT VIA ANY MANNER OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY, AND ABOVE ALL, DO NOT PLAGIARIZE. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT TURNITIN DOES IS COMPARE YOUR PAPER TO A BILLION OTHER PAPERS, ARTICLES, WEBSITES, BOOKS ETC, TO CHECK FOR ORIGINALITY. BETTER THAT YOU WRITE A CRAPPY PAPER AND GET A D/65 OR F/55 THAN YOU BE CAUGHT CHEATING, GET *NO* CREDIT, AND HAVE YOUR PERMANENT RECORD STAINED BY AN INCIDENT OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY.

Your name
Essay Assignment #1
US History 1877-present
F22

TOTALLY OPTIONAL TITLE

This is how your paper should be formatted. This is how your paper should be formatted. This is how your paper should be formatted. This is how your paper should be formatted. This is how your paper should be formatted. This is how your paper should be formatted. This is how your paper should be formatted. This is how your paper should be formatted. This is how your paper should be formatted. This is how your paper should be formatted.

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